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SERVICE

NEWS

ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION
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March 18, 1942



The Agricultural Appropriation Bill (H.R. 6709) and the House of Representative's debate on the bill has been one of the chief topics of interest in Washington during the first weeks in March. The bill, as voted on by the House, was slashed considerably as a wartime economy measure; however, only one cut was made in SCS funds as recommended by the Budget Bureau.

Here is the way SCS appropriations now stand:

First, the House voted down all proposed amendments from the floor which would have cut SCS appropriations. The House did sustain, however, two changes in the amounts of funds which had been recommended by the Agricultural Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations. These changes were a cut of \$100,000 in research funds and an increase of \$795,607 in Land Utilization funds over the sum approved by the Bureau of the Budget. SCS may also be affected by the blanket cut of \$8,000,000 from the travel funds for the whole Department.

While the regular SCS funds for 1943 under Public 46, as approved by the House, are \$3,199,905 less than the 1942 appropriation, the Service would actually have

available only about \$28,000 less than was available during 1942 because of the substantial part of this year's appropriation which was impounded in the budget reserve.

With the increase in LU funds voted by the House, there would be a total of \$1,591,182 for land management and development work and the completion of land purchases initiated during and prior to the current year.

Farm forestry would have the same amount--\$700,000--as was available in 1942. Flood control funds are included in the appropriation for civil activities of the War Department and have not been acted upon as yet.

During the House debate on SCS funds a great many highly complimentary things were said about accomplishments of the Service and about the Chief.

But to get back to the subject of the Appropriation Bill. Hearings before the Agricultural Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations should be held within the next few weeks. After the Committee hearings, the Senate will debate and vote on the bill. When the Senate gets through voting on the bill, a joint committee selected from the House and Senate will adjust any differences in the appropriations as approved by the two branches of Congress.

We shall try to keep you advised on the progress of the SCS items. Meanwhile, there is a table at the bottom of page 3, comparing the funds available in 1942 with the House-approved estimates for 1943.

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CONSERVATION FARMING -- A WARTIME NECESSITY

As we get down to the serious business of planning bushels, pounds and acres to attain the goals of the USDA Food-for-Freedom program, the part that conservation can play in increasing production and at the same time saving soil takes on a greater significance. Our research folks are ready with the facts and figures to show that years of tests prove conservation farming is a wartime necessity in our present great effort to attain maximum production.

Here are some of the things which conservation farming has proved:

Corn production could be increased by almost 100,000,000 bushels if contour cultivation were applied on 1/3 of corn acreage in the corn belt.

Contouring increased potato yields 44 bushels per acre in Arnot, N. Y.

In the same State conservation practices increased the production of grapes from 600 to 2500 pounds per acre.

Cover crops doubled yields of sweet corn in New Jersey.

Mulching doubled yields on some soils in South Carolina.

Conservation almost tripled corn yields at Zanesville, Ohio.

Contouring, terracing, and other conservation practices in widely different acres in the Great Plains increased production of grain sorghums.

Conservation produced a 69 lb. increase of lint cotton at Spur, Texas.

A West Texas ranch man by better range management increased the weight of his calves by 75 lbs. and his calf crop from 65 to 93%.

In Colorado a rancher by good range conservation practices increased average weight of his lambs by 14%.

Water conservation raised yields 50% in New Mexico.

Ten percent less time and 17% less tractor fuel was used to produce corn on the contour than was required on non-contoured fields in eastern Nebraska.

Farmers in the Coon Valley, Wisconsin, area were unanimous in stating that farming on the contour consumed less power.

Forty-eight cooperating farms in western Pennsylvania increased their milk production by 1000 lbs. per farm. Non cooperating farms showed little change.

Farm planning increased production on a North Carolina farm from 10 to 30%.

In Wisconsin conservationists produced 10,000 lbs. of hogs on 16 acres of corn. The less efficient required 60% more corn land to produce an equal tonnage.

Remember: Conservation farming - if blended with other proven practices - will help us produce more and better agricultural products. It will help us win this war by giving more food for our army and navy, our people, and our allies. It will not only increase production now, but will make it possible to sustain the increased production by protecting the fertility of our soil.

(The above is taken from closely calculated experimental evidence and from cooperating farmers who have applied conservation practices on their land. For a more complete statement of above reports, please refer to mimeographed pamphlet "Conservation Farming--A Wartime Necessity."--Ed.)

CHIEF MAKES SHIFTS IN KEY PERSONNEL

To aid the war-time program of SCS, Chief Bennett has reassigned some of the key personnel in Washington and the field. Recently announced are the following changes of assignment.

Mr. J. C. Dykes, formerly Assistant Regional Conservator of Region 4, has been designated Assistant Chief of Service, replacing Mr. Dillon S. Myer.

Dr. A. L. Patrick, formerly Assistant Chief in charge of Surveys and Project Plans, has been named Regional Conservator of Region 1.

Mr. A. E. Jones, formerly Assistant Regional Conservator of Region 7, is designated Assistant Chief, in charge of Surveys and Project Plans, replacing Dr. A. L. Patrick. During Mr. Manifold's absence on detail to the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, Mr. Jones will also serve as Acting Assistant Chief in charge of Technical Operations.

Mr. John S. Barnes, Assistant to the Assistant Chief in charge of Technical Operations, will continue to serve in that capacity. Mr. Barnes served temporarily in Mr. Manifold's position.

(Continued in next column)

DILLON MYER IS NAMED ADMINISTRATOR OF ACAA

Dillon S. Myer, formerly Assistant Chief of SCS, has been named Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration. He succeeds R. M. Evans who resigned as Administrator to become a member of the Federal Reserve Board.

Dr. John P. Jones, formerly Regional Conservator, has been reassigned to the position of Assistant Regional Conservator of Region 1, in charge of Surveys and Project Plans.

Mr. O. C. Bruce, Assistant Regional Conservator of Region 1, formerly in charge of both Technical Operations and Surveys and Project Plans, has been reassigned as Assistant Regional Conservator in charge of Technical Operations.

During the absence on military furlough of Mr. Raymond H. Davis, Chief of the Project Plans Division, Mr. Melville H. Cohee, in addition to his present functions as Chief of the Program Procedures Division, is designated as Acting Chief, Project Plans Division, reporting to the Assistant Chief in charge of Surveys and Project Plans.

HOUSE-APPROVED SCS FUNDS FOR 1943 COMPARED WITH 1942 BUDGET

	<u>1943 Funds</u> (House-Approved)	<u>1942 Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
SCS Appropriation (under Public 46)	22,402,204	25,602,109	- 3,199,905
Land Utilization	1,591,182	2,752,412	- 1,161,230
Cooperative Farm Forestry	700,000	700,000	----

FOR DEFENSE



**BUY
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STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS**

ON SALE AT YOUR POST OFFICE OR BANK

REGION 10 FIRST TO REACH 100% IN BOND CAMPAIGN

Region 10 is the first SCS office to go over the top with 100 percent employee participation in the purchase of Defense Bonds and Stamps. The occasion was so momentous that the event was clocked. Regional Conservator Reddick wired the Chief that Region 10 went over the top at 1:42 p.m. February 13. The region hung up a record for which they can be justly proud and at which the rest of us can aim.

In Washington SCS continues to lead all other bureaus in the Department with 96.7 percent of all employees buying bonds and stamps. The latest employee participation reports from the regions are listed below. Look at them--all in the nineties.

Region 1	98.5%	Region 6	98. %
Region 2	91.2	Region 7	90.
Region 3	97.4	Region 8	98.3
Region 4	96.2	Region 9	99.8
Region 5	98.3	Region 10	100.

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SCS field men who are working with the Army in solving its soil erosion problems around newly-constructed camps have been assigned to Army zone offices. The men who have been assigned to this work are Allen McClellan, F. P. Gilbert, Earl C. Murdock, C. E. Monfort, R. H. Morrish, John Glass, Walter V. Kell, John H. Cheek, and A. W. Middleton.

SCS MEN RUSH TO JOIN THE MILITARY SERVICES

Since war was declared the list of SCS men granted military furloughs has increased rapidly. In fact, the list is so long we are printing only part of it in this issue of Service News; the remainder will appear in next issue.

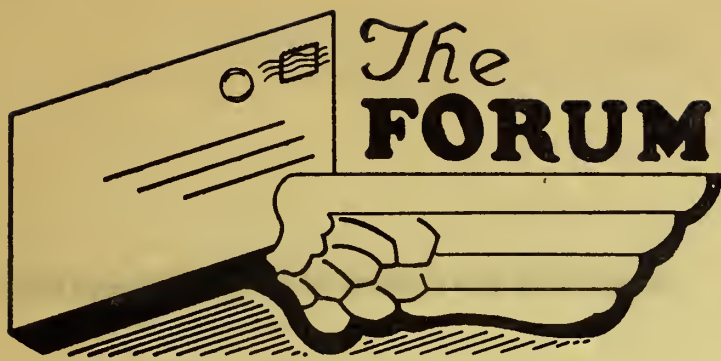
Titles are given where such information has been furnished to Washington.

Washington, D. C.: *Robinson, L. Abbott, Frederick W. Baltz, George A. Bates, Charles R. Dellinger, John E. Hendricks, Glen W. Lowrey, Jefferson A. Maddox, Harvey Stailey.

Region I: Richard W. Akeley, John S. Andrews, Gerow D. Brill, James L. F. Catts, James L. Forbes, Lewis M. French, Lloyd J. Graham, Lewis P. Kelsey, Joel Kaplan, Francis E. Mulvaney, Vincent McKeever, Raymond G. Ripley, Aaron Shapiro, Leland D. Brown.

Region II: Edmund Barbour, Jr.; Roy R. Beck; Robert Wedford Brown, 2nd Lt. FA-Res; William Howard Brown, 1st Lt. CA-Res; Clifford D. Cannon; Robert M. Cargile, 1st Lt. FA-Res; Ernest C. Dameron, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Neil W. Davis; Frank Y. Duncan, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Sam Dykes, 1st Lt. CA-Res; Joe B. Earle; Gilbert I. Edwards; Elmer E. Epting, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Matthew J. Freda; Emory T. Gladden, 2nd Lt. Inf-Res; Charles K. Grant; James A. Green; John H. Greene, 1st Lt. Air Corps Res; Perrin H. Grissom; John W. Hampton, Jr.; George L. Harmon, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Milford W. Haynes, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Edward Vance Huffman, 1st Lt. FA-Res; William J. Lee; Howard P. Lloyd, Aviation Cadet, Air Corps; Daniel Loewenthal; Frank A. McAllister, Jr., 1st Lt. CA-Res; Jeremiah G. McNeekin, Capt. Inf-Res; Walter A. McPhail, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Byrd C. Martin, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Homer C. Mauer, 1st Lt. CA-Res; John L. Moore, 1st Lt. Inf-Res; Ralph A. Newman; Klein D. Noel; James D. Patton.

(Continued in next issue)



SPEAKING OF ECONOMY

Many of us often wonder what consideration is given to economy and the conservation of paper and other materials in the preparation of new forms.

Recently a salesman from a well-known filing equipment company entered our office with a cheery smile on his face, ready to take an order for some new filing equipment. His equipment was ideal for Form AD-50 (revised July 1, 1941), which is used to record annual leave. We had purchased 5 x 8 steel files to fit the old form.

The new form renders obsolete all our filing equipment previously used for it. Since it is a Departmental form, we wonder just how many offices found themselves in the same situation. It would have cost this regional office alone approximately \$300 to buy the new equipment needed for filing. We gave no consideration to the purchase of new equipment, however, but are filing the new form in a regular letter-sized filing cabinet, even though the drawers are too deep to be utilized as a working file.

I don't question the need for revision of the form, because the previous form did not have space for a record of military or court leave. But was consideration given to the cost of changing our filing systems when this form was revised?

D.J.F.

(Here is an explanation from Personnel Management Division:

"The Department Committee on personnel forms held two or three conferences on leave cards during the summer of 1941. Representatives of all bureaus were invited to attend and it was discovered that some 15 different forms were being used by the Department. SCS and at least three other large bureaus protested that changing the size of the leave card would require the use of different filing equipment, but there had been so many complaints about the eye strain involved by the use of the smaller cards that a majority of bureaus voted to change to the larger size.

"It cannot, of course, be argued that it will be necessary to scrap equipment formerly used, since the old leave cards were standard 5 x 8 size and such equipment is commonly used for many other records in SCS. Similarly it probably is not necessary for this Service to purchase any new filing equipment for the new cards since they are a standard letter size and filing cabinets already on hand can be used for the purpose.")

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Information folks of SCS and AAA will get together to discuss their mutual problems in the Food-for-Freedom program under the ACAA in two meetings which will be held at Spokane, Wash., on March 19 and 20, and at Denver, Colo., on March 23 and 24.

At the Spokane meeting SCS will be represented by the regional conservators, information chiefs, and State coordinators of Regions 9 and 10. AAA representation will include the State chairmen and State information men from each of the five western States. The Denver meeting will be attended by similar representatives of the two organizations in Regions 7 and 8.

Glenn K. Rule of SCS and Wayne Darrow, Willard H. Lamphere, Gus F. Geissler, and Mrs. Bertha Friant of AAA will represent the Washington office at the meetings.

WHO CAN BEAT THIS RECORD FOR FIRST-AID TRAINING?

Delmar P. Thompson, junior soil conservationist in the Allegany district at Cumberland, Maryland is establishing what we believe may be a record, within the Service, for participation in the Red Cross first-aid training program.

Mr. Thompson qualified as a Red Cross first-aid instructor in 1938 while attached to the soil conservation project at Kutztown, Pa. Transferred to the newly formed Allegany district in November 1941, Thompson arrived in Cumberland at a time when qualified first-aid instructors were scarce and in great demand, and the Red Cross lost no time in making use of his services. He has completed or has under way seven classes, with a total enrollment of over 1500 persons, in the standard course. These classes include nurses from the two Cumberland hospitals, health nurses from the State, City and county forces, industrial and insurance nurses, air raid wardens, defense motor corps, postal employees, girls scout leaders, local police, and shop employees of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and Electric Company employees.

MANIFOLD LOANED TO OCIA

C. B. Manifold, Assistant Chief, Technical Operations, has been loaned by SCS for an indefinite period to the Agricultural Division of the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. On the assignment he will be in charge of the Agricultural Division's work in developing increased output of wild rubber from the various Latin American republics.

J. S. Barnes will act as Assistant Chief, Technical Operations, during Mr. Manifold's absence from SCS.

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Melvin S. Kennedy of Cartographic has transferred to the Map Section, Office of the Chief of Air Corps at Bolling Field.

DRAINED LAND PRODUCES GOOD YIELDS FIRST YEAR

I. P. Carskadon, farmsuperintendent of the "Medium Security" Prison, near Elkins, W. Va., has reported that some bottom land on the prison farm gave very satisfactory yields the first year following drainage. Mr. Carskadon reported that 1941 production from 16 acres of potatoes amounted to 3,520 bushels, or an average of 220 bushels per acre; and the yield from 18 acres of corn amounted to 1,260 bushels, or an average of 70 bushels per acre.

In the fall of 1940 SCS was asked to give some technical assistance to the prison on its drainage problem. Harold M. Rhodes, area engineer, developed a plan which included open drains and under-drainage with tile. Prior to drainage, the land was too wet for cultivation and the pasture was of little value. The crops secured are considered an excellent showing for land drained the first year.

Drainage is one of the practices that aids production and is particularly important in war time when it is necessary to increase yields per acre and perhaps bring additional land under cultivation. The practice often aids soil conservation through permitting the retirement of steep eroding lands from cultivation.

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Wayne Darrow and Gordon Zimmerman have been travelling through the south and west to confer with field representatives of SCS and AAA and to explain the proposed plan of integrating the information divisions of the two organizations under the ACAA. On this trip they visited field offices in South Carolina, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Nebraska, and Illinois.

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BUY DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS
--and remind your friends too!

FIELD MEMORANDA

- 1043--A Limited deferment for reserve officers. (War Department will now consider limited deferment of Reserve Officers in key civilian positions if request for deferment is submitted prior to issuance of active duty orders. SCS does not consider any of its positions to be key positions in the sense that unlimited deferment would be requested for any employee.)
- 1053 Free access to data and records of all agencies under Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration. (R. M. Evans issues instructions for access to data of four organizations under ACAA.)
- 1054 Change of time. (Sets up procedure for recording hydrologic data since establishment of War Time.)
- 1041--A Approval of membership in military and naval organizations. (Regional Conservators and Acting Regional Conservators granted authority to approve such memberships.)
- 1047--A Holidays (Quotes Personnel Circular No 119 re leave rights and compensation on Federal statutory and executive order holidays.)
- 1055 Soil Conservation Service program, policies, and objectives with reference to the war and post-war periods.
- 1056 Farm Safety Bulletin "Watch Your Step" (Requests recently-issued bulletin be read and brought to the attention of farmers.)
- 1057 Communication, radio. (All matters pertaining to applications for installation and use of radio communication.)
(Continued in next column)

LAW OR PATRIOTISM?

Joseph H. Blandford, AAA State Committeeman from Maryland, recently made the following excellent statement: "The topsoil is our most important national asset. Among the million and odd laws on the statute books in the United States, there is not one, so far as I have been able to learn, which requires farmers to replace in the soil the fertility they remove by the crops they grow or cause it to lose by improper care. Our homes, our health, our business, and money, our birds, dogs, and cats are all protected; but the thing which makes it possible to have all these is being wantonly and rapidly exhausted. The preservation of our soil for future generations is an act of patriotism at any time, but especially now in the presence of our country's grave peril. Patriotism does not consist merely in reciting the Pledge to the Flag and singing the Star-Spangled Banner. We may even go further and take holiday on Washington's birthday, shoot firecrackers on the Fourth of July, and eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day, but unless we take better care of our topsoil than many of us are now doing, we cannot honestly lay claim to the proud title of 'Patriot'."

ication facilities within the Service should be referred to Samuel Goodacre, Chief of Service Operations Division, who has been designated liaison officer between SCS and the Departmental member of Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee.

- 822-B Employment of persons with relatives in Federal service. (Persons entering active military service since May 1, 1940 not considered incumbent of civil service position and therefore a third member of family may be certified by Commission for appointment.)

PRINTERS' INK

"Conserving Soil and Water With Stubble Mulch" by H. H. Bennett, In February Agricultural Engineering.

"The Effect of Mulching and Methods of Cultivation on Run-off and Erosion from Muskingum Silt Loam" by H. L. Borst and R. Woodburn, soil conservationists at Zanesville, Ohio, in the January Agricultural Engineering.

"Machinery Requirements for Farming Through Crop Residues" by F. L. Duley, senior soil conservationist, and J. C. Russel, cooperative agent, both at Lincoln, Nebr., in the February Agricultural Engineering.

"Accomplishments in Forestry on Farms in the South" by D. E. Lauderburn, forester at Spartanburg, S. C., in the February Journal of Forestry.

"Pitting on Alaskan Farm Lands a New Erosion Problem" by W. A. Rockie, senior soil conservationist in Region 9, in the January Geographic Review.

"Kudzu Becomes a Glamour Girl" by C. G. Webb, associate information specialist at Fort Worth, Tex., in the February Arkansas Farmer.

"Tooling Up for Soil Conservation" by Harry L. Carr, information specialist, and G. E. Ryerson, senior mechanical engineer, both of the Washington office, in the January Farmer's Digest. The article was reprinted from Soil Conservation.

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Harold Salmon, Head of the Section of Investigations, has resigned to take a position with the Committee on Administrative Personnel of the Civil Service Commission. Joseph S. Durkin succeeds Mr. Salmon as Acting Head of the Section.

MORE CONSERVATION MORE LIVESTOCK FEED

How district conservation plans are aiding the Food-for-Freedom program and conserving the soil at the same time is indicated by T. H. Neighbors, chairman of the board of supervisors of the Piedmont soil conservation district in Alabama.

The average farmer carrying out a district plan on his farm in the Piedmont district last year planted kudzu at a rate 33 times as great as the average farmer of the State; harvested 15 times as much sericea seed and 4-3/4 times as much annual lespedeza seed, Mr. Neighbors reports.

These three crops not only conserve the soil and provide feed needed for increased production of livestock products in the war effort, but, because they are legumes, they also add nitrogen to the soil and reduce the need for commercial nitrogen, which is essential in making munitions.

Special emphasis in soil conservation districts in Region 2 is being placed on harvesting legume seed to assure an adequate supply of seed for increased plantings of legumes which will be needed in meeting crop production goals.

OFF THE PRESS

"New Landmarks of Soil Conservation." Miscellaneous Publication No. 473. This is a revision of an earlier unnumbered publication.

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"Conservation Increases Yield" will be the theme of three broadcasts over the Farm and Home Hour. On the first program--March 19--Dr. Bennett will be the guest speaker. Later programs are scheduled for March 26 and April 2.

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REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!